

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 009706
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DRAFTED BY:EUR/WE:JWSWIHART

APPROVED BY: EUR/WE - EMROWELL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

S E C R E T STATE 009706

FOL USNATO 260 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO MOSCOW ALL NATO
CAPITALS JAN 11, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T USNATO 00260

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PORG

SUBJECT: ALLIANCE EAST-WEST STUDY: REFERENCE TO MALTA

REF: STATE 005888

1. WE APPRECIATE COMMENTS CONTAINED REFTEL ON REVISED
PART I OF EAST-WEST STUDY AND WANT TO CIRCULATE THEM AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, REFERENCES TO MALTA IN
PARA 34 REFTEL. OUR APPROACH AT NATO HAS BEEN TO UNDERLINE
MINTOFF'S DECLARATIONS OF NONALIGNMENT AS INDICATIONS THAT
MINTOFF WILL BE RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT SOVIET WARSHIPS IN
MALTA'S DOCKYARDS. FOR US TO RAISE SPECTRE OF SOVIET
USE OF THESE FACILITIES IN THE EAST-WEST STUDY COULD PRO-
VIDE AMMUNITION TO THE MALTESE, THROUGH THE ITALIANS, TO
MAKE DEMANDS FOR POST-1979 ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM THE
ALLIANCE. SUCH DEMANDS, WE BELIEVE, SHOULD MORE PROPERLY
BE MADE TO MALTA'S NEIGHBORS OR IN THE EC FORUM.

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2. ACCORDINGLY, WE RECOMMEND INCLUDING IN OUR CIRCULATED
COMMENTS FIRST SENTENCE OF PARA 34 DEALING IN GENERAL TERMS
WITH SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE IN MEDITERRANEAN BUT DELETING
TWO REMAINING SENTENCES CONCERNING MALTA.

3. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR CHANGE PER PARA 2. GLITMAN

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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